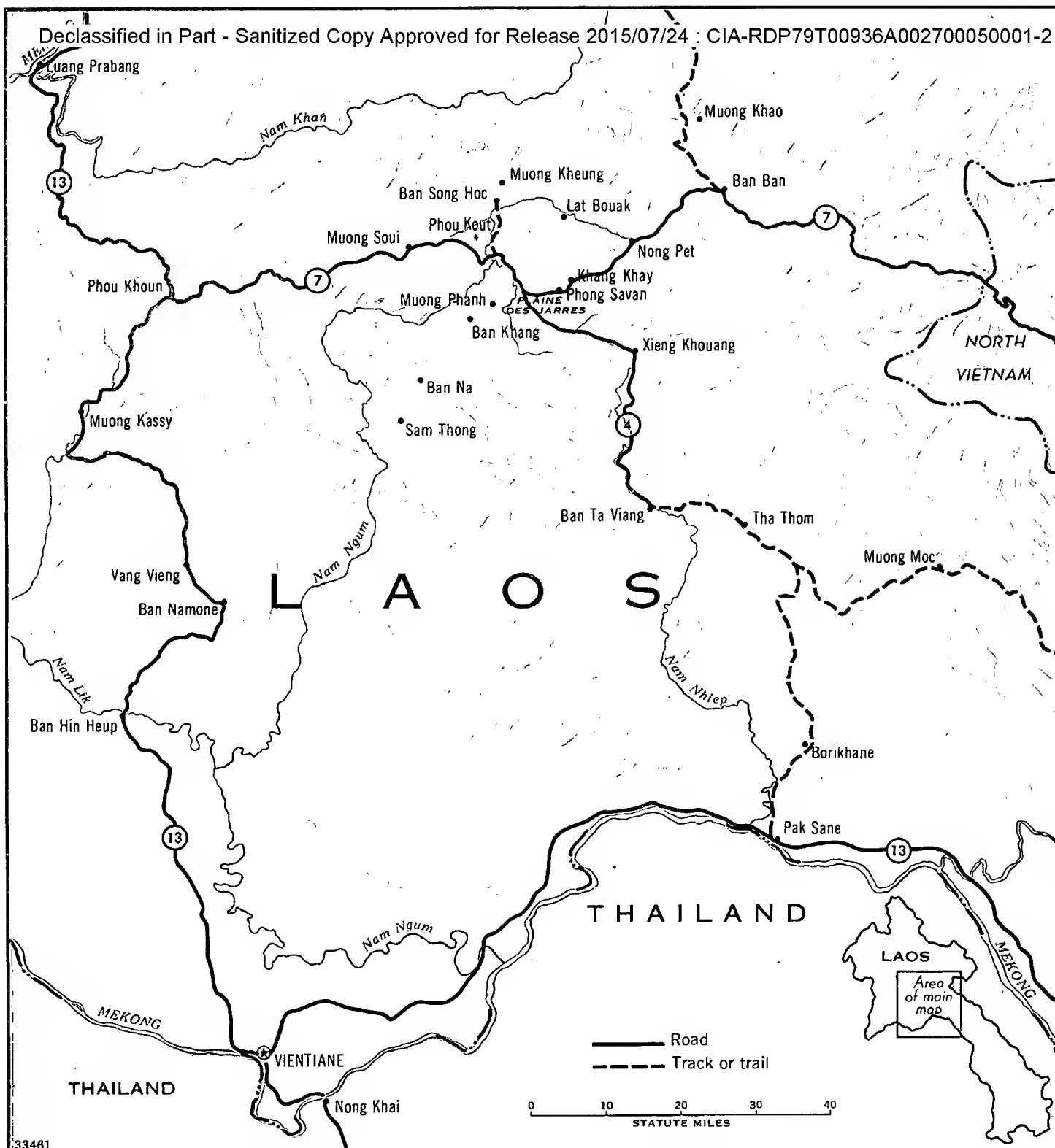


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

28 MAY 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. Communist forces will soon be in position to train their guns on Muong Soui, the main obstacle to a westward advance along Route 7.

b. Neutralist efforts to defend this position, assuming they try, will be hampered by a lack of supplies and a heavy loss of armor. Before withdrawing from Muong Kheung for the second time yesterday, the neutralists destroyed the bulk of their heavy equipment.

c. Pathet Lao forces are also keeping up the pressure to the south of the Plaine. They seem especially intent on wiping out the Meo guerrillas in this area.

d. In Vientiane, Souvanna won some support for his policies from the rightist-dominated national assembly before the session ended Tuesday. Some elements remain critical, however, of his failure to take strong actions,

e. Warsaw threw still another conference proposal into the hopper yesterday. Rapacki would have the co-chairmen, the three ICC powers, and representatives of the three Laotian factions convene in Switzerland immediately.

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(Cont'd)

For The President Only - Top Secret

f. The proposal was produced after consultations in Moscow, where the Polish ICC commissioner for Laos turned up over the weekend. The immediate aim may have been to counter British pressure on Poland to end its "temporary withdrawal" from the ICC.

g. Soviet spokesmen are trying meanwhile to influence US decisions

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2. France -
North Vietnam

a. Several small straws in the Paris wind suggest that the French are willing to develop closer political contacts with Hanoi.

b. The chief of North Vietnam's trade mission in Paris was received for the first time at the Quai by the head of the Far Eastern office. Previously, the Hanoi man had been unable to get past the economic and cultural functionaries.

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d. Ho Chi Minh has made no secret of his interest in diplomatic relations. [REDACTED]

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e. The French will not want to rush things. Formal recognition of Hanoi would jeopardize the much larger French economic stake in South Vietnam.

3. India

a. President Radhakrishnan is pressing for an immediate decision on a successor to Nehru. Congress Party members of Parliament are caucusing today, but may deal only with preliminaries.

b. What worries Radhakrishnan, and we think rightly, is that the longer the election process is prolonged the greater will be the danger of a factional struggle developing.

c. Front-runner Shastri probably is also interested in speeding up a vote. [REDACTED]

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d. One immediate effect of Nehru's death has been to put Sheikh Abdullah back where he started in his delicate dealings on Kashmir. He has canceled what was left of his peace mission in Pakistan, and has gone back to Delhi to re-read the situation before taking up his case again with India's new leadership.

4. Congo

a. The latest pocket revolt broke out yesterday in Albertville in North Katanga. Unidentified rebels seized and blocked the airfield there and locked up local authorities.

b. The best guess at the moment is that the local gendarmerie mutinied..

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c. Leopoldville officials meanwhile have reconsidered their request that UN troops help out in Kivu. They are sending in additional Congo Army units from Leopoldville and Stanleyville in the hope that this will do the trick.

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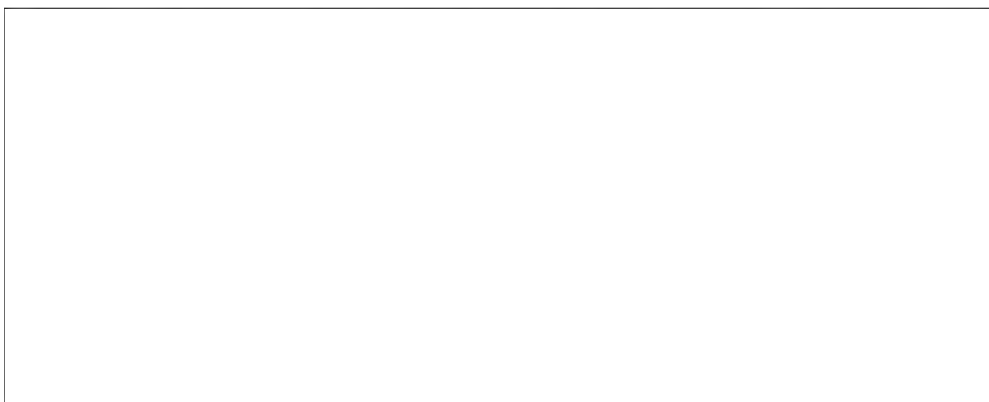
5. Lebanon

a. Efforts to draft President Shihab for a second term are going forward, despite continuing signs that he means business when he says he wants to quit.

b. Parliament yesterday took the first steps toward removing the constitutional bar against a president succeeding himself. Many feel Shihab's re-election in August is the only way to avoid bitter religious and political wrangling over a successor.

c. Shihab will now find it more difficult to resist the pressure to run again, and may yield in the end.

NOTES



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- B. East Germany - USSR Ulbricht is off on Friday on his third mission to Moscow this year. He is mainly interested in doing something about his regime's growing isolation. Bonn's recent success in improving its relations with Eastern Europe, whose leaders have shown little concern for East German interests, has hit Ulbricht where it hurts. He will be looking for remedies in Moscow.
- C. USSR A new Soviet twin-jet interceptor is being phased into operation at an air defense base in the Black Sea area. The new fighter, probably one of two first shown in the July 1961 air show, is an all-weather, Mach 2 aircraft with advanced weapons and a range considerably greater than any Soviet fighter now operational.

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(Cont'd)

D. Cambodia-France Sihanouk, who had planned to arrive incognito in France today, now expects to land in Nice on Monday. The prince wants to take a rest cure until his official visit begins two weeks later. A Cambodian military mission is coming to France with Sihanouk to seek additional military aid.

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